

Option 31: Weimar and Nazi Germany, 1918–39

Key topic 1: The Weimar Republic 1918–29	
1 The origins of the Republic, 1918–19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The legacy of the First World War. The abdication of the Kaiser, the armistice and revolution, 1918–19. <u>The situation in Germany at the end of the War: political unrest, abdication of the Kaiser, armistice and new republic.</u> The setting up of the Weimar Republic. The strengths and weaknesses of the new <u>Weimar</u> Constitution.
2 The early challenges to the Weimar Republic, 1919–23	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reasons for the early unpopularity of the Republic, including the 'stab in the back' theory and the key terms of the Treaty of Versailles. Challenges to the Republic from Left and Right: Spartacists, Freikorps, the Kapp Putsch. The challenges of 1923: hyperinflation; the reasons for, and effects of, the French occupation of the Ruhr.
3 The 'Golden Years': the recovery of the Republic, 1924–29	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reasons for economic recovery, including the work of Stresemann, the Rentenmark, the Dawes and Young Plans and American loans and investment. The impact on domestic policies of Stresemann's achievements <u>in gaining international acceptance of Germany</u> abroad; <u>through</u> the Locarno Pact <u>and</u>; joining the League of Nations and the Kellogg–Briand Pact.
4 Changes in society, 1924–29	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Changes in the standard of living, including wages, housing, unemployment insurance. Changes in the position of women in work, politics and leisure. Cultural changes: developments in architecture, art and the cinema.

Subtopic 1

1. We have amended bps1 and 2 to make it clear this Subtopic sets the scene for this option and that the events don't need to be studied in depth; rather it's about understanding the situation out of which Weimar came about.

2. Added 'Weimar' into bp2 for clarity.

Subtopic 3

1. Subtopic heading amended to include the phrase '*the golden years*'. This does not imply a change in teaching but it is a phrase the students should be familiar with.

2. reference to '*the impact on domestic policies*' removed from bp2 to simplify teaching and focus on how Germans viewed his achievements, not their impact on domestic policies.

3. '*Kellogg Briand Pact*' removed from bp2 to simplify teaching.

Subtopic 4

'*including wages, housing, unemployment insurance*' removed from bp1. This emphasises that changes in the standard of living can be studied as a whole rather than spending time teaching a range of specific details on each of these three areas.

Key topic 2: Hitler's rise to power, 1919–33

1 Early development of the Nazi Party, 1920–22	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hitler's early career: joining the German Workers' Party and setting up the Nazi Party, 1919–20. • The early growth and features of the Party. The Twenty-Five Point Programme. The role of the SA.
2 The Munich Putsch and the lean years Nazi Party, 1923–28	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The reasons for, events and consequences of the Munich Putsch; <i>Mein Kampf</i>. • Reasons for limited support for the Nazi Party, 1924–28. Party reorganisation, <i>including the</i> and Mein Kampf. The Bamberg Conference of 1926.
3 The growth in support for the Nazis, 1929–32	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The growth of unemployment – its causes and impact. The failure of successive Weimar governments to deal with unemployment from 1929 to January 1933. The growth of support for the Communist Party. • Reasons for the growth in support for the Nazi Party, including the appeal of Hitler and the Nazis, the effects of propaganda and the work of the SA.
4 How Hitler became Chancellor, 1932–33	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Political developments in 1932. The roles of Hindenburg, Brüning, von Papen and von Schleicher. • The part played by Hindenburg and von Papen in Hitler becoming Chancellor in 1933. • The Presidential and Reichstag elections of 1932; reasons for Hitler becoming Chancellor in 1933, including the roles of Hindenburg and von Papen.

Subtopic 1

'The early growth and features of the Party' removed to simplify teaching.

Subtopic 2

1. *'lean years'* in Subtopic heading replaced by *'Nazi Party'* to be more straightforward, and end date changed from 1929 to 1928 to provide clearer chronological separation from Subtopic 3, which starts in 1929.

2. *'Mein Kampf'* moved from bp2 to bp1 as it fits better here.

3. The full stop before *'the Bamberg Conference'* replaced with *'including'* to establish more clearly its link with party reorganisation.

Subtopic 3

'The failure of successive governments to deal with unemployment from 1929 to 1933' removed. Students still need to know about the causes and impact, but students do not need to know about the responses of individual Weimar governments and Chancellors in these years.

Subtopic 4

Two bullet points merged into one, and reference to Brüning and von Scheicher removed to simplify the content

Key topic 3: Nazi control and dictatorship, 1933–39

1 The creation of a dictatorship, 1933–34	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Reichstag Fire. The Enabling Act and the banning of other parties and trade unions. • The threat from Röhm and the SA. The Night of the Long Knives. and the <u>The</u> death of von Hindenburg, Hitler becomes Führer, and the army and oath of allegiance.
2 The police state	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The role of the Gestapo, the SS, the SD and concentration camps. • Nazi control of the legal system, judges and law courts. • Nazi policies towards the Catholic and Protestant Churches, including the Reich Church and the Concordat.
3 Controlling and influencing attitudes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Goebbels and the Ministry of Propaganda: censorship, Nazi use of media, rallies and sport, including the Berlin Olympics (1936). • Nazi control of culture and the arts, including art, architecture, literature and film. • <u>Nazi attempts to control the Catholic and Protestant Churches: the Concordat and the Reich Church.</u>
4 Opposition, resistance and conformity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The extent of support for the Nazi regime. • Opposition from the Churches, including the role of Pastor Niemöller. • Opposition from the young, including the Swing Youth and the Edelweiss Pirates.

Subtopic 1

1. Full stop added before death of Hindenburg to avoid implying that this is connected to the Night of the Long Knives.
2. 'von' removed from Hindenburg for consistency with how his name appears in Key Topic 2.
3. 'and' removed from '*the army and the oath of allegiance*' to make clear that students do not need to study the army more generally than the oath.

Subtopic 2

1. 'SD' removed from bp1 to simplify teaching.
2. '*judges and law courts*' removed - this clarifies that the legal system can be looked at as a single entity rather than three separate things.
3. The churches moved from bp3 into Subtopic 3 as it fits better as an aspect of controlling/influencing attitudes.

Subtopic 3

1. As mentioned above the churches has moved here from Subtopic 2. Also, the emphasis changed from '*policies*' to '*attempts to control*' to provide greater focus and simplify teaching.

Key topic 4: Life in Nazi Germany, 1933–39

1 Nazi policies towards women	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Nazi views on women and the family.• Nazi policies towards women, including marriage and family, employment and appearance.
2 Nazi policies towards the young	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Nazi aims and policies towards the young. The Hitler Youth and the League of German Maidens.• Nazi control of the young through education, including the curriculum and teachers.
3 Employment and living standards	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Nazi policies to reduce unemployment: including labour service, autobahns, rearmament and invisible unemployment.• Changes in the standard of living, especially of German workers. The Labour Front, Strength Through Joy, Beauty of Labour.
4 The persecution of minorities	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Nazi racial beliefs and policies and the treatment of minority groups: Slavs, Roma and Sinti, homosexuals, and people with disabilities.• The persecution of Jewish people, including the boycott of Jewish shops and businesses (1933), the Nuremberg Laws and 'Kristallnacht'.

Subtopic 3

'including' replaced by a colon in bp1. This means that these four policies are all that needs to be covered rather than there being more examples that could be studied.